



T hath beene our desire and disposition
in all the course of our Gouvernment (as one of the best and
safest remedies) to extend our naturall clemencie in forewarn-
ing Offenders Where reason of State Will not permit vs to
vse the same in dispensing with their offences; And hauing late-
ly obserued that divers of our Subjects haue repaired into our
Realme of England from the parts beyond the Seas (being
persons of meane condition, and of wandring course of life, and
vnknownen to any of credit that might vndertake for them) Who haue refused to take the
Oath of allegiance, lately by our Parliament devised: We can not but conceiuе that such
persons are not unlike to become bad Instruments of practise and perill against our
State. For considering that we had neuer any intention in the forme of that Oath to
presse any point of Conscience for matter of Religion, but only to make some disconerie of
disloyall affection: the refusall thereof in any person must both induce a vehement suspition
in it selfe, and much more in such a one as may be probably supposed to haue come from
such parts, Where he may haue conuersed with Traitors and Fugitives, and is also of a
needie fortune, which may make him apt for any dangerous or desperate imployment:
And therefore wee haue resolued, and accordingly doe charge and commaund all per-
sons authorized by Law, to minister the said Oath, that taking information from the Of-
ficers of our Ports, and by all other good Wayes and meanes, they faile not to tender the
same Oath at the Ports to all our Subjects comming from beyond the Seas, (not being
knowen Merchants or men of some qualitie) and vpon refusall thereof the Law to be se-
uerely executed, which wil let them to Prison vntill the next Assises, or Gene-
rall quarter Sessions, and so vpon a second refusall to be brought within the degree of a
Præmunire. Wherein, because the penaltie is so grievous (of which neuerthelesse we can
not in our Princely prouidence make any alteration) we haue thought good to notifie our
resolution, and order given therein, which we doubt not, but wil be in small time dispersed
abroad; to the end that such as now are, or heereafter shalbe in forraigne parts, and finde
in their owne hearts such affections, as can not stand with the said Oath, may know their
peril, and thereby either refraine their comming in, or expect the execution of our Lawes.

Given at our Palace of Westminster the xxix. day of April in the sixt yeere of our raigne
of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

Anno Dom. 1608.